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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 990125028-9028-01]

RIN 0648-ZA54

Aquatic Nuisance Species Research and Outreach and Improved Methods for Ballast Water Treatment and Management: Request for Proposals for FY 1999

AGENCY: National Sea Grant College Program, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that the National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant) is entertaining preliminary proposals and subsequently full proposals for innovative research, outreach, and demonstration projects that address the problems of Aquatic Nuisance Species in U.S. coastal waters. In FY 1999 and 2000, Sea Grant expects to make available about \$2,300,000 per year to support projects to prevent and/or control nonindigenous species invasions in all U.S. marine waters, the Great Lakes, and Lake Champlain; matching funds equivalent to a minimum of 50% of the Federal request must be provided. In FY 1999 only, Sea Grant also expects to make available about \$1,000,000 to support demonstration projects to improve ballast water treatment and management in Chesapeake Bay and the Great Lakes, matching funds may also be included for these projects, but are not required. Successful projects will be selected through national competitions.

DATES: Preliminary proposals must be submitted before 5 pm (local time) on April 5, 1999 to the nearest state Sea Grant College Program or the National Sea Grant Office (NSGO). After evaluation at the NSGO, some proposers will be encouraged to prepare full proposals, which must be submitted before 5 pm (local time) on May 27, 1999 to the nearest state Sea Grant College Program or NSGO.

ADDRESSES: Investigators located in states with Sea Grant Programs must submit their preliminary proposals and full proposals through those programs. The addresses of the Sea Grant College Program directors may be found on Sea Grant's home page (<http://www.mdsg.umd.edu/NSGO/index.html>) or may also be obtained by contacting the Program Manager at the National Sea Grant Office (see below). Investigators from non-Sea Grant states applying for the "Ballast Water Treatment and Management Program," only, may submit their preliminary proposals and proposals directly to the National Sea Grant Office at: National Sea Grant College Program, R/SG, Attn: Aquatic Nuisance Species Competition, Room 11841, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Leon M. Cammen, Aquatic Nuisance Species Coordinator, National Sea Grant College Program, R/SG, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, or Mary Robinson, Secretary, National Sea Grant Office, 301-713-2435; facsimile 301-713-0799.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Program Authority

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1121-1131.

Catalog of Federal Assistance Number: 11.417, Sea Grant Support.

II. Program Description

Background

Nonindigenous species introductions are increasing in frequency and causing substantial damage to the Nation's environment and economy. Although the most prominent of these has been the zebra mussel, many other nonindigenous species have been introduced and have truly become a nationwide problem that threatens many aquatic ecosystems. While some intentional introductions may have had beneficial effects, there are many other nonindigenous species already present in U.S. waters, or with the potential to invade, that may cause significant damage to coastal resources and the economies that depend upon them. In response, the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4701 et seq.) established a framework for the Nation to address the problems of aquatic nuisance species invasions of coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

Although problems such as the zebra mussel and the sea lamprey within the Great Lakes have received the most attention, invasions of nonindigenous species in coastal marine environments are an increasing and serious threat. The

National Invasive Species Act of 1996 (16 U.S.C. 4711-4714) recognized this by calling for Federal funding to support aquatic nuisance species prevention and control along the Nation's marine coast.

In addition, the Act recognized the serious threat posed by ballast water discharge in causing new invasions and called for ballast water management demonstration programs. A 1996 National Research Council study of the ballast water problem, "Stemming the Tide," concluded that with the growth of global shipping, and the changes in modern shipping practices, introductions of nonindigenous species through ballast water discharge were likely to remain a serious problem. The study called for the development of improved technology for the management of ballast water to eliminate this threat to the Nation's ecosystems. A demonstration project testing filtration of ballast water as a method of reducing introductions is currently underway in the Great Lakes, but it is acknowledged that there is unlikely to be a single solution that is acceptable for all modes of shipping operations and classes of vessels.

Funding Availability and Priorities

The National Sea Grant College Program encourages proposals that address one of the following two program areas:

(1) Research and Outreach to Prevent and Control Aquatic Nuisance Species Invasions

An interagency Ad Hoc Committee on Exotic Species in the Great Lakes has prepared a report entitled, "Coordinated Program of Research for Exotic Species in the Great Lakes." Although targeted for the Great Lakes, the report provides a useful framework for research and outreach on any nonindigenous species problems and is therefore being used to structure this more general request for proposals covering U.S. marine waters, the Great Lakes, and Lake Champlain. Research and outreach proposals are requested that address one or more of the following program areas:

(a) **Biology and Life History:** Basic biological research into population dynamics, genetics, physiology, behavior, and parasites and diseases of nonindigenous species with the potential to lead to the development of ecologically safe, effective, and inexpensive control. Research on the ecological and environmental tolerances of nonindigenous species with the potential for prediction of eventual geographic and ecological impacts.

(b) **Effects on Ecosystems:** Research on the impacts of nonindigenous species at

each stage of their life history with the potential for helping natural resource managers determine how to minimize the impacts on established biota and their habitats.

(c) Socio-Economic Analysis: Costs and Benefits: Research on the potential impacts of nonindigenous species on human health in terms of spread of disease, concentration of pollutants, and contamination or purification of drinking water sources. Economic impact on sport, commercial and tribal fisheries, the recreation and tourism industry, and tribal fisheries, the recreation and tourism industry, the shipping and navigation industry, and municipal and industrial water users. Use of research results to provide a scientific basis for developing sound policy and environmental law, and for public education and technology transfer.

(d) Control and Mitigation: Research into various types of control—engineering (redesigning water intakes, etc.), physical (scraping, filtering, etc.), chemical (biocides, antifoulants, etc.), biological (parasites, predators, etc.), and physicochemical (heat, salinity, pH, etc.)—to develop selective, effective controls that minimize adverse ecological/environmental impacts. Outreach activities that will transfer these technologies to the appropriate users.

(e) Preventing New Introductions: Research and outreach into identifying vectors of introduction, developing cost-effective, realistic methods of prevention, and transferring the information to appropriate users. In particular, research to develop workable and effective methods to eliminate ballast water discharge as a source of nonindigenous species introductions without imposing undue hardships on the shipping industry.

(f) Reducing the Spread of Established Populations: Research and outreach to identify mechanisms for further dispersal of individual established species that will lead to the development of safeguards and protocols to prevent and/or slow the spread of nonindigenous species to uninfested areas, and transfer of that information to appropriate users.

(g) Ballast Water Pathogens and Public Health: Research to assess the public health risks posed by pathogens released in ballast waters discharges in U.S. ports.

About \$2,300,000 is available from the National Sea Grant College Program to support these projects in FY 1999; an additional \$2,300,000 may be available in FY 2000 depending on the overall funding appropriation for the National

Sea Grant College Program. Of this amount, 70% of the funds will be made available to support research projects and 30% for outreach activities. Project activities should include identified milestones for each project year, and the second year of funding is contingent upon availability of funds and submission of an annual report showing satisfactory progress. Proposals may request up to \$150,000 per year and each proposal must include additional matching funds equivalent to at least 50% of the Federal funds requested; for example, a proposal requesting a total of \$200,000 in Federal support for two years would have to include at least an additional \$100,000 in matching funds. Regardless of any approved indirect cost rate applicable to the award, the maximum dollar amount of allocable indirect costs for which the Department of Commerce will reimburse the Recipient shall be the lesser of: (a) the Federal share of the total allocable indirect costs of the award based on the negotiated rate with the cognizant Federal agency as established by audit or negotiation; or (b) The line item amount for the Federal share of indirect costs contained in the approved budget of the award.

(2) Ballast Water Treatment and Management

Research to develop workable and effective methods to eliminate ballast water discharge as a source of nonindigenous species introductions without imposing undue hardships on the shipping industry. Possible approaches include (but are not limited to) development and/or demonstration of technologies for treatment or management of ballast water on-board ship or for on-shore management. Projects that include on-vessel or on-shore demonstrations of feasibility will be given priority. Projects must be clearly targeted toward addressing ballast water management in either Chesapeake Bay or the Great Lakes, but investigators located outside those regions may participate if all demonstrations are carried out in the targeted regions.

About \$1,000,000 is available for this activity in FY 1999, of which at least \$240,000 will be used to support Chesapeake Bay activities. Proposals are limited to one year of funding, but activities may extend for up to two years; an annual report showing satisfactory progress must be submitted at the end of the first year. Project activities should include identified milestones for each project year. Proposals may request up to \$500,000 in Federal support; matching funds may

also be included, but are not required. Regardless of any approved indirect cost rate applicable to the award, the maximum dollar amount of allocable indirect costs for which the Department of Commerce will reimburse the Recipient shall be the lesser of: (a) The Federal share of the total allocable indirect costs of the award based on the negotiated rate with the cognizant Federal agency as established by audit or negotiation; or (b) the line item amount for the Federal share of indirect costs contained in the approved budget of the award.

III. Eligibility

Applications may be submitted by individuals; public or private corporations, partnerships, or other associations or entities (including institutions of higher education, institutes, or non-Federal laboratories), or any State, political subdivision of a State, or agency or officer thereof.

IV. Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria for proposals submitted for support under the "Research and Outreach to Prevent and Control Aquatic Nuisance Species Invasions" program area are:

(1) Impact of proposed project (50%): Significance of the aquatic nuisance species problem that will be addressed; the effect this activity will have on reducing the impact of nonindigenous species on the environment and/or the economy, or the need for this activity as a necessary step toward such a reduction in impact.

(2) Scientific or Professional Merit (20%): Degree to which the activity will advance the state of the science or discipline through use and extension of state-of-the-art methods.

(3) User Relationships (15%): Degree to which potential users of the results of the proposed activity have been involved in planning the activity and/or will be involved in the execution of the activity.

(4) Innovativeness (10%): Degree to which new approaches to solving problems and exploiting opportunities in resource management or development, or in public outreach on such issues will be employed; alternatively, the degree to which the activity will focus on new types of important or potentially important resources and issues.

(5) Qualifications and Past Record of Investigators (5%): Degree to which investigators are qualified by education, training, and/or experience to execute the proposed activity; record of achievement with previous funding.

The evaluation criteria for proposals submitted for support under the "Ballast Water Treatment and Management" program area are:

(1) Impact of proposed project (40%): Potential effectiveness of ballast water treatment technologies or practices in reducing introductions of nonindigenous species.

(2) Field-Scale Demonstration (10%): Inclusion of a field-scale demonstration of the proposed ballast water treatment technology or practices.

(3) Scientific or Professional Merit (20%): Degree to which the activity will advance the state of the science or discipline through use and extension of state-of-the-art methods.

(4) User Relationships (15%): Degree to which potential users of the results of the proposed activity have been involved in planning the activity, will be involved in the execution of the activity, and/or are providing matching funds.

(5) Innovativeness (10%): Degree to which new approaches to solving problems and exploiting opportunities in resource management or development, or in public outreach on such issues will be employed; alternatively, the degree to which the activity will focus on new types of important or potentially important resources and issues.

(6) Qualifications and Past Record of Investigators (5%): Degree to which investigators are qualified by education, training, and/or experience to execute the proposed activity; record of achievement with previous funding.

V. Selection Procedures

Preliminary proposals will be reviewed at the NSGO by a panel composed of government, academic, and industry experts. The panel will be asked to assess each proposal according to the evaluation criteria listed above. The panel will make individual recommendations to the Director of the NSGO regarding which preliminary proposals may be suitable for further consideration. On the basis of the panel's recommendations, the Director of the NSGO will advise proposers whether or not the submission of full proposals is encouraged. Invitation to submit a full proposal does not constitute an indication that the proposal will be funded. Interested parties who are not invited to submit full proposals will not be precluded from submitting full proposals if they have submitted a preliminary proposal in accordance with the procedures described below.

Full proposals will be received at the individual state SEa Grant Programs or

at the National Sea Grant Office, if from a non-Sea Grant state, and sent to peer reviewers for written reviews. The National Sea Grant Office will obtain the written reviews for proposals from non-Sea Grant states. Complete full proposals and their written reviews will be sent by the state Sea Grant programs to the National Sea Grant Office to be ranked in accordance with the assigned weights of the above evaluation criteria by one of two independent peer review panels consisting of government, academic, and industry experts; one panel will review the "Research and Outreach to Prevent and Control Aquatic Nuisance Species Invasions" proposals and a second panel will review the "Ballast Water Treatment and Management" proposals. These panel members will provide individual evaluations on each proposal, but there will be no consensus advice. Their recommendations and evaluations will be considered by the National Sea Grant Office in the final selection. Only those proposals rated by the panel as either Excellent, Very Good or Good will be eligible for funding. For those proposals, the National Sea Grant Office will: (a) ascertain which proposals best meet the program priorities, and do not substantially duplicate other projects that are currently funded or are approved for funding by NOAA and other federal agencies, hence, awards may not necessarily be made to the highest-scored proposals; (b) select the proposals to be funded; (c) determine which components of the selected projects will be funded; (d) determine the total duration of funding for each proposal; and (e) determine the amount of funds available for each proposal. Investigators may be asked to modify objectives, work plans, or budgets prior to final approval of the award. Subsequent grant administration procedures will be in accordance with current NOAA grants procedures. A summary statement of the scientific review by the peer panel will be provided to each applicant.

VI. Instructions for Application

Timetable

April 5, 1999, 5 pm (local time)—Preliminary proposals due at state Sea Grant Program.

April 8, 1999, 5 pm EST—Preliminary proposals due at NSGO.

May 27, 1999, 5 pm (local time)—Full proposals due at state Sea Grant Program.

July 7, 1999, 5 pm EST—Full proposals due at NSGO.

October 1, 1999 (approximate)—Funds awarded to selected recipients; projects begin.

General Guidelines

The ideal proposal attacks a well-defined problem that will be or is a significant societal issue. The organization or people whose task it will be to make related decisions, or who will be able to make specific use of the projects results, will have been identified and contacted by the Principal Investigator(s). The project will show an understanding of what constitutes necessary and sufficient information for responsible decision-making or for applied use, and will show how that information will be provided by the proposed activity, or in concert with other planned activities.

Research projects are expected to have: a rigorous, hypothesis-based scientific work plan, or a well-defined, logical approach to address an engineering problem; a strong rationale for the proposed research; and a clear and established relationship with the ultimate users of the information. Research undertaken jointly with industry, business, or other agencies with interest in the problem will be seen as being meritorious. Their contribution to the research may be in the form of collaboration, in-kind services, or dollars support. Projects that are solely monitoring efforts are not appropriate for funding.

What to Submit

Preliminary Proposal Guidelines

To prevent the expenditure of effort that may not be successful, proposers must first submit preliminary proposals. Preliminary proposals must be single- or double-spaced, typewritten in at least a 10-point font, and printed on metric A4 (210 mm × 297 mm) or 8½" × 11" paper. The following information should be included:

(1) Signed Title Page: The title page should be signed by the Principal Investigator and should clearly identify the program area being addressed by starting the project title with either "Research and Outreach to Prevent and Control Aquatic Nuisance Species Invasions" or "Ballast Water Treatment and Management." Principal Investigators and collaborators should be identified by affiliation and contact information. The total amount of Federal funds and matching funds being requested should be listed for each budget period, as well as the source of the matching funds. Preliminary proposals for "Research and Outreach to Prevent and Control Aquatic Nuisance

Species Invasions" must include matching funds equivalent to at least 50% of the Federal funds requested; matching funds are encouraged, but not required, for "Ballast Water Treatment and Management" proposals.

(2) A concise (2-page limit) description of the project, its expected output or products, the anticipated users of the information, and its anticipated impact. Proposers may wish to use the Evaluation Criteria for additional guidance in preparing the preliminary proposals.

(3) Resumes (1-page limit) of the Principal Investigators.

(4) Proposers are encouraged (but not required) to include a separate page suggesting reviewers that the proposers believe are especially well qualified to review the proposal. Proposers may also designate persons they would prefer not review the proposal, indicating why. These suggestions will be considered during the review process.

Three copies of the preliminary proposals must be submitted to the state Sea Grant Program Director or, for investigators in non-Sea Grant states, directly to the National Sea Grant Office (NSGO) before 5 pm (local time) on April 5, 1999. Preliminary proposals submitted to state Sea Grant Programs will be forwarded, along with a cover letter, to Dr. Leon Cammen, Aquatic Nuisance Species Coordinator, at the address below so as to reach the National Sea Grant Office (NSGO) on or before 5 pm on April 8, 1999. No institutional signatures or federal government forms are needed while submitting preliminary proposals.

Full Proposal Guidelines

Each full proposal should include the items listed below. All pages should be single- or double-spaced, typewritten in at least a 10-point font, and printed on metric A4 (210 mm × 297 mm) or 8½" × 11" paper. Brevity will assist reviewers and program staff in dealing effectively with proposals. Therefore, the Project Description may not exceed 15 pages. Tables and visual materials, including charts, graphs, maps, photographs and other pictorial presentations are included in the 15-page limitation; literature citations are not included in 15-page limitation. Conformance to the 15-page limitation will be strictly enforced. All information needed for review of the proposal should be included in the main text; no appendices are permitted.

(1) Signed Title Page: The title page should be signed by the Principal Investigator and the institutional representative and should clearly identify the program area being

addressed by starting the project title with either "Aquatic Nuisance Species Research and Outreach", or "Ballast Water Treatment and Management" as appropriate. The Principal Investigator and institutional representative should be identified by full name, title, organization, telephone number and address. The total amount of Federal funds being requested should be listed for each budget period.

(2) Project Summary: This information is very important. Prior to attending the peer review panel meetings, some of the panelists may read only the project summary. Therefore, it is critical that the project summary accurately describe the research being proposed and convey all essential elements of the research. The project summary should include: 1. Title: Use the exact title as it appears in the rest of the application. 2. Investigators: List the names and affiliations of each investigator who will significantly contribute to the project. Start with the Principal Investigator. 3. Funding request for each year of the project, including matching funds if appropriate. 4. Project Period: Start and completion dates. Proposals should request a start date of October 1, 1999, or later. 5. Project Summary: This should include the rationale for the project, the scientific or technical objectives and/or hypotheses to be tested, and a brief summary of work to be completed.

(3) project Description (15-page limit):

(a) Introduction/Background/Justification: Subjects that the investigator(s) may wish to include in this section are: (i) current state of knowledge; (ii) contributions that the study will make to the particular discipline or subject area; and (iii) contributions the study will make toward addressing the problem of nonindigenous species.

(b) Research or Technical Plan: (i) Objectives to be achieved, hypotheses to be tested; (ii) Plan of work—discuss how stated project objectives will be achieved; and (iii) Role of project personnel.

(c) Output: Describe the project outputs that will enhance the Nation's ability to manage and control nonindigenous species impacts.

(d) Coordination with other Program Elements: Describe any coordination with other agency programs or ongoing research efforts. Describe any other proposals that are essential to the success of this proposal.

(e) Literature Cited: Should be included here, but does not count against the 15-page limit.

(4) Budget and Budget Justification: There should be a separate budget for each year of the project as well as a cumulative annual budget for the entire project. Applicants are encouraged to use the Sea Grant Budget Form 90-4, but may use their own form as long as it provides the same information as the Sea Grant form. Subcontracts should have a separate budget page. Matching funds must be indicated if required; failure to provide adequate matching funds will result in the proposal being rejected without review. Applicants should provide justification for all budget items in sufficient detail to enable the reviewers to evaluate the appropriateness of the funding requested. For all applications, regardless of any approved indirect cost rate applicable to the award, the maximum dollar amount of allocable indirect costs for which the Department of Commerce will reimburse the Recipient shall be the lesser of: (a) The Federal share of the total allocable indirect costs of the award based on the negotiated rate with the cognizant Federal agency as established by audit or negotiation; or (b) The line item amount for the Federal share of indirect costs contained in the approved budget of the award.

(5) Current and Pending Support: Applicants must provide information on all current and pending support for ongoing projects and proposals, including subsequent funding in the case of continuing grants. All current project support from whatever source (e.g., Federal, State or local government agencies, private foundations, industrial or other commercial organizations) must be listed. The proposed project and all other projects or activities requiring a portion of time of the principal investigator and other senior personnel should be included, even if they receive no Federal salary support from the project(s). The number of person-months per year to be devoted to the projects must be stated, regardless of source of support. Similar information must be provided for all proposals already submitted or submitted concurrently to other possible sponsors, including those within NOAA.

(6) Vitae (2 pages maximum per investigator).

(7) Research Protocol (if appropriate): Research activities funded under this program must not accelerate the spread of nonindigenous species to non-invested watersheds. Therefore, investigators whose laboratories or research study sites are in currently uninfested areas must adopt procedures for handling the particular nonindigenous species that will prevent

its release into the environment. Such proposals must contain a research protocol for review by interagency committee created under the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4701 et seq.) before the grant can be awarded. Guidelines for developing suitable protocols are available through the World Wide Web (www.mdsg.umd.edu/NSGO/research/nonindigenous/RFP99.html) or from Dr. Leon Cammen at the National Sea Grant Office (phone: 301-713-2435 x136 or e-mail: leon.cammen@noaa.gov). Proposals lacking a suitable protocol will not be eligible for funding.

(8) Declaration of Vessel Selection (if appropriate): Applications proposing on-board demonstrations of ballast water management should address the requirements and priorities listed in the National Invasive Species Act of 1996 (16 U.S.C. 4711-4714) for selecting vessels for demonstration projects. These requirements are available through the World Wide Web (www.mdsg.umd.edu/NSGO/research/nonindigenous/RFP99.html) or from Dr. Leon Cammen at the National Sea Grant Office (phone: 301-713-2435 x136 or e-mail: leon.cammen@noaa.gov).

(9) Standard Application Forms: Applicants may obtain all required application forms through the World Wide Web at <http://www.mdsg.umd.edu/NSGO/research/rfp/index.html>, from the state Sea Grant Programs or from Dr. Leon Cammen at the National Sea Grant Office (phone: 301-713-2435 x136 or e-mail: leon.cammen@noaa.gov).

The following forms must be included:

(a) Standard Forms 424, Application for Federal Assistance, 424A, Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs; and 424B, Assurances—Non-Construction Programs, (Rev 4-88). Applications should clearly identify the program area being addressed by starting the project title with either "Aquatic Nuisance Species Research and Outreach" or "Ballast Water Management" as appropriate. Please note that both the Principal Investigator and an administrative contact should be identified in Section 5 of the SF424. For Section 10, applicants should enter "11.417" for the CFDA Number and "Sea Grant Support" for the title. The form must contain the original signature of an authorized representative of the applying institution.

(b) Primary Applicant Certifications. All primary applicants must submit a completed Form CD-511, "Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; Drug-Free Workplace

Requirements and Lobbying," and the following explanations are hereby provided:

(i) Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension. Prospective participants (as defined at 15 CFR Part 26, Section 105) are subject to 15 CFR Part 26, "Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension" and the related section of the certification form prescribed above applies;

(ii) Drug-Free Workplace. Grantees (as defined at 15 CFR Part 26, Section 605) are subject to 15 CFR Part 26, Subpart F, "Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants)" and the related section of the certification form prescribed above applies;

(iii) Anti-Lobbying. Persons (as defined at 15 CFR Part 28, Section 105) are subject to the lobbying provisions of 31 U.S.C. 1352, "Limitation on use of appropriated funds to influence certain Federal contracting and financial transactions," and the lobbying section of the certification form prescribed above applies to applications/bids for grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts for more than \$100,000, and loans and loan guarantees for more than \$150,000, or the single family maximum mortgage limit for affected programs, whichever is greater; and

(iv) Anti-Lobbying Disclosure. Any applicant that has paid or will pay for lobbying using any funds must submit an SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," as required under 15 CFR Part 28, Appendix B.

(c) Lower Tier Certifications. Recipients shall required applicants/bidders for subgrants, contracts, subcontracts, or other lower tier covered transactions at any tier under the award to submit, if applicable, a completed Form CD-512, "Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-Lower Tier Covered Transactions and Lobbying" and disclosure form, SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities." Form CD-512 is intended for the use of recipients and should not be transmitted to the Department of Commerce (DOC). SF-LLL submitted by any tier recipient or subrecipient should be submitted to DOC in accordance with the instructions contained in the award document.

VII. How to Submit

Preliminary proposals and proposals must be submitted to the state Sea Grant Programs or, for investigators in non-Sea Grant states, directly to the National Sea Grant Office (NSGO), according to the schedule outlined above. Although investigators are not required to submit more than 3 copies of either

preproposals or full proposals, the normal review process requires 10 copies. Investigators are encouraged to submit sufficient copies for the full review process if they wish all reviewers to receive color, unusually sized (not 8.5x11"), or otherwise unusual materials submitted as part of the proposal. Only three copies of the Federally required forms are needed. The addresses of the Sea Grant College Program directors may be found on Sea Grant's World Wide Web home page (<http://www.mdsg.umd.edu/NSGO/index.html>) or may also be obtained by contracting the Program Manager, Dr. Leon M. Cammen, at the National Sea Grant Office (phone: 301-713-2435 x136 or e-mail:

leon.cammen@noaa.gov). Preproposals and proposals sent to the National Sea Grant Office should be addressed to: National Sea Grant Office R/SG, Attn: Aquatic Nuisance Species Coordinator, NOAA, Room 11841, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (phone 301-713-2535 for express mail applications).

Applications received after the deadline and applications that deviate from the format described above will be returned to the sender without review. Facsimile transmissions and electronic mail submission of full proposals will not be accepted. If you have any questions or require further information, contact one of the agency coordinators listed above.

VIII. Other Requirements

(A) Federal Policies and Procedures—Recipients and subrecipients are subject to all Federal laws and Federal and Department of Commerce (DOC) policies, regulations, and procedures applicable to Federal financial assistance awards.

(B) Past Performance—Unsatisfactory performance under prior Federal awards may result in an application not being considered for funding.

(C) Preaward Activities—If applicants incur any costs prior to an award being made, they do so solely at their own risk of not being reimbursed by the Government. Notwithstanding any verbal or written assurance that may have been received, there is no obligation on the part of DOC to cover preaward costs.

(D) No Obligation for Future Funding—If an application is selected for funding, DOC has no obligation to provide any additional future funding in connection with that award. Renewal of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the total discretion of DOC.

(E) Delinquent Federal Debts—No award of Federal funds shall be made to an applicant who has an outstanding delinquent Federal debt until either:

(1) The delinquent account is paid in full,

(2) A negotiated repayment schedule is established and at least one payment is received, or

(3) Other arrangements satisfactory to DOC are made.

(F) Name Check Review—All non-profit and for-profit applicants are subject to a name check review process. Name checks are intended to reveal if any key individuals associated with the applicant have been convicted of or are presently facing criminal charges such as fraud, theft, perjury, or other matters which significantly reflect on the applicant's management honesty or financial integrity.

(G) False Statements—A false statement on an application is grounds for denial or termination of funds and grounds for possible punishment by a fine or imprisonment as provided in 18 U.S.C. 1001.

(H) Intergovernmental Review—Applications for support from the National Sea Grant College Program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.

(I) Purchase of American-Made Equipment and Products—Applicants are hereby notified that they will be encouraged to the greatest extent practicable, to purchase American-made equipment and products with funding provided under this program.

Classification

Prior notice and an opportunity for public comments are not required by the Administrative Procedure Act or any other law for this notice concerning grants, benefits, and contracts. Therefore, a regulatory flexibility analysis is not required for purposes of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

This action has been determined to be not significant for purposes of E.O. 12866.

This notice contains collection of information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Sea Grant Budget Form and Standard Forms 424, 424a and 424b have been approved under control numbers 0648-0362, 0348-0043, 0348-0044, and 0348-0040 with average responses estimated to take 15, 45, 180, and 15 minutes, respectively. These estimates include the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send

comments on these estimates or any other aspect of these collections to National Sea Grant College Program, R/SG, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (Attention: Francis S. Schuler) and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503 (Attention: NOAA Desk Officer). Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Dated: February 25, 1999.

Louisa Koch,

Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 99-5114 Filed 3-4-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 990125029-9029-01]

RIN 0648-ZA55

Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship National Sea Grant College Federal Fellows Program

AGENCY: Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces that applications may be submitted for a Fellowship program which was initiated by the National Sea Grant College Program Office (NSGCPO), in fulfilling its broad educational responsibilities, to provide educational experience in the policies and processes of the Legislative and Executive Branches of the Federal Government to graduate students in marine related fields. The Fellowship program accepts applications once a year during the month of September. All applicants must submit an application to one of the Sea Grant College Programs in their state. If there is no program in the applicant's state they should apply through the closest state Sea Grant College Program.

DATES: Deadlines vary from state to state, but are generally due in early August. Contact your state Sea Grant

College Program for specific deadlines (see list below).

ADDRESSES: Applications should be addressed to the Sea Grant College Program in your state or the closest state. Contact your state Sea Grant College program for the mailing address from the list below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Information and brochures can be obtained from Dr. Sharon H. Walker, Acting Director (until September 1, 1999), or from Dr. Shirley J. Fiske, Director (after September 1), National Sea Grant Federal Fellows Program, National Sea Grant College Program, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, telephone (301) 713-2431 extension 148 or call your nearest Sea Grant program:

University of Alaska—(907) 474-7086

University of California—(619) 534-4440

University of Connecticut—(860) 405-9128

University of Delaware—(302) 831-2841

University of Florida—(352) 392-5870

University of Georgia—(706) 542-6009

University of Hawaii—(808) 956-7031

University of Illinois—(765) 494-3593

Louisiana State University—(504) 388-6710

University of Maine—(207) 581-1436

University of Maryland—(301) 405-6209

Massachusetts Institute of Technology—(617) 253-7131

University of Michigan—(734) 763-1437

University of Minnesota—(218) 726-8106

Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium—(228) 875-9341

University of New Hampshire—(603) 862-0122

New Jersey Marine Science Consortium—(732) 872-1300

State University of New York—(516) 632-6905

University of North Carolina—(919) 515-2454

The Ohio State University—(614) 292-8949

Oregon State University—(541) 737-2714

University of Puerto Rico—(787) 832-3585

Purdue University—(765) 494-3593

University of Rhode Island—(401) 874-6800

South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium—(843) 727-2078

University of Southern California—(213) 740-1961

Texas A&M University—(409) 845-3854

Virginia Graduate Marine Science Consortium—(804) 924-5965

University of Washington—(206) 543-6600